

BRITISH BLOW UP RIDGE HELD 2 YEARS BY GERMANS; LONDON HEARS EXPLOSION

Tenton Lines Two Miles From Allied Front in Belgium Smashed.

LONDON, June 7.—Preceded by terrific mine explosions, the greatest in war's history, the British Army began at early morning an offensive of tremendous power on the front in Belgium. The attack succeeded completely. The entire Wytchateste ridge overlooking Ypres was stormed. The over 5,000 prisoners have been counted and there are thousands more, and numbers of cannon, machine guns and other booty have been taken.

Over a front of more than nine miles, almost from Ypres to Armentieres, the British infantry swarmed from the trenches and began what is called already the third battle of Ypres. They captured the whole Wytchateste salient, five miles long by nearly three miles deep. In taking the ridge they stormed the first and second lines of German defences. Wytchateste itself, Messines, Oosttaverne and smaller places, trenches, forts and numerous strong machine gun defences.

The British avenged themselves to-day for the first time in the battles of Ypres early in the war, when the Germans introduced asphyxiating gas. Hill 60 of evil renown, which was the nearest menace to Ypres, was taken down into the air and thousands of tons of a secret explosive compound. There was only one of the old scores that the British wiped out for the days of October, 1914, when the German heavy howitzers blew the little British army out of Ypres.

Explosions Are Titanic.

Every development of modern war was employed in this most carefully prepared of all the British offensive. Just before the attack the engineers exploded mines charged with no less than a million pounds of high explosives under the German trenches. Many of these mines were dug a year ago. So tremendous was the explosion that it was heard 100 miles away in England. The Germans were overwhelmed and stunned.

Under the conditions of a smoke barrage, the element that was first was protected, which resembled them completely from German observers. With them went the armored tanks. The offensive had been preceded by bombardment of ferocious intensity lasting for weeks in which more guns and shells were used than at the Somme or Arras.

German blood-greasy admission to-night that the British attack had broken the outer German line, he says that the battle is fortuitous, suggesting an efficacy of German resistance that the British report scarcely indicate.

In the Wyltschaene salient the Germans have broken into our former positions none, says the German state

The capture of the Wytschate ridge, an achievement of great importance, took two years and a half, since October 1917 and June 1919. The ridge, 1,000 feet high, was dominated completely by British positions about Ypres. Its possession gave them the power of firing steadily down into the British trenches.

Ridge a Key Position.

Moreover, the ridge had been considered a sort of key position on the British front, for almost all the country about it was low and flat. This ridge, the formation of which was the result of a fault, formed a salient in the German line, and the road made by the British in 1917, the road made by the Germans in 1918, and the road made by the British in 1919, all ran along it. It was between Ypres and Arras, and it was five miles south of Ypres, thirty miles north of Arras.

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Measles Is Captured.

This was done exactly as planned. In the early morning Measles and Wytshaete were taken, as well as a cordon of trenches about them. Oostverme and the positions beyond were stormed in the second phase of the attack.

The British success was the more remarkable because the Germans knew that the offensive was coming in the Wytshaete region and had prepared for it. For days the German War Office had been throwing out hints of an

was expected. Correspondents at the front agree that the Germans in the